GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4731
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2002
CALCUTTA HIGH COURT`S DECISION TO STOP COW SLAUGHTERING ON BAKRI
SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Calcutta High Court while deciding writ petition No.709 on August, 28, 1982 held that on the day of Bakri Id slaughters on cow and its progeny shall remain stopped;

(b) whether the West Bengal Government filed appeal against High Court in the Supreme Court during 1983;

(c) whether the Supreme Court while deciding appeal during November, 1994 declared the slaughter of cow and its progeny on Bakri-Id, illegal;

(d) whether in spite of the judgment of the Supreme Court on cow slaughter etc. having been published in AIR 1995 Supreme Court page 464 a few lakhs cows are being slaughtered on the said day in gross contempt of the Supreme Court order; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL, MINES, LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (c): Shri Ashutosh Lahiri and Others filed a writ petition No.709 of 1971 before the Calcutta High Court, challenging the validity of exemption of slaughter of scheduled animal, namely cows, from the operation of the West Bengal Animal Slaughter Control Act, 1950 on Bakri-Id day. By its judgment dated 20.8.1982, the Division Bench of the High Court allowed the petition and issued a mandamus to the State of West Bengal and its delegate officers calling upon them to forbear from giving any exemption under Section 12 of the West Bengal Animal Slaughter Control Act, 1950 in respect of slaughter of cows on the occasion of Bakri-Id day thereinafter.The respondents (State of West Bengal and 27 others) filed SLPs against the judgment of the Calcutta High Court before the Hon`ble Supreme Court of India in the year 1983 and vide its judgment dated 16.11.1994, the Hon`ble Supreme Court confirmed the decision of the High Court and dismissed the appeals.